

The Principles of Discourse at Hampshire College

--from a speech by President Gregory S. Prince, Hampshire College Convocation, 1990.

- (1) That we value truth and the process of seeking truth as ends in themselves;
- (2) That we accept responsibility to articulate a position as close to the truth as one can make it, using to the best of one's ability, available evidence, and the rules of reason, logic and relevance;
- (3) That we listen openly, recognizing always that new information may alter one's position;
- (4) That we welcome evaluation and accept and even encourage disagreement and criticism even to the point of seeking out for ourselves that which will dispower our position;
- (5) That we refuse to reduce disagreement to personal attacks or attacks on groups or classes of individuals;
- (6) That we value civility, even in disagreement;
- (7) That we reject the premise that the ends, no matter how worthy, can justify means which violate these principles.